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UNCLAS MUMBAI 000200

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO ULEMA COUNCIL - ACTION REQUEST

REF: 2004 Mumbai 816

1. (SBU) On January 15, 2005, ConGen Mumbai received a letter from Maulana Mehmood Daryabadi, General Secretary for the All India Ulema Council. The letter requested that the USG allow members of the All India Ulema Council to lead and organize a delegation in coordination with other Islamic Organizations to supervise the Iraq Elections. Their goal is to submit a report to the Organization of Islamic Conference and the United Nations. This an action request: see paragraph five.

2. (U) The All India Ulema Council is a self-appointed organization which claims to be the religious leadership of Indian Muslims. It tries to include all sub-sects of Indian Muslims; however, the majority members of the Council are Deoband Sunnis (an Islamic school of jurisprudence). Ninety-five percent of Indian Muslims are Sunnis. CG has met with the group in the past (reftel) to discuss Iraq, and while the group clearly had concerns, the Ulema representatives were cordial and prepared to engage in dialogue.

3. (U) Below is the text of the All India Ulema Council letter.

Begin text:

The United States of America's status as an occupying power and it's reasoning of war with Iraq is yet to find acceptance in the International Community. Iraq is preparing for a General Election, these election (sic) are historic and will bring about major changes in Iraq.

Iraq has great importance in the Islamic World as many of our importance (sic) shrines are in Iraq. We, Indian Muslims are the second largest population of Muslims in the world. And in our capacity we feel it's our duty and responsibility to convey our opinion on such an important issue to the world.

As citizens of India we are accustomed to democracy which has its roots with the people of the country. No election in the world has led so much bloodshed as Iraq elections have. Iraq needs democracy which will bring peace to Iraq and not more violence. We need to groom democracy and not impose, the world is watching this event and any fallout which is not just to the people of Iraq will not be forgotten.

We demand:

Indian Muslim Ulema's and Intellectuals be allowed to supervise the Iraq Elections as Observers and submit its report to Organisation of Islamic Conference and United Nations.

All India Ulema Council can lead and organize a delegation in co-ordination with other Islamic Organisations in India.

We understand that for such an initiative we need to get an approval from the Occupying Power i.e. United States of America and the Iraqi Election Commission. We have begun this exercise by writing to your good office and expect that our demand will be forwarded to the authorities concerned including the White House.

End text.

4. (SBU) ConGen proposes sending a letter to the General Secretary for the All India Ulema Council in response.

SIPDIS

Begin text:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting permission to monitor the upcoming Iraqi elections. However, sovereignty in Iraq is vested in the Iraqi Governing Council and the Iraqi people. If you are interested in monitoring the elections, you may wish to contact the Iraqi Governing Council and request permission from them directly.

End text.

5. (U) Post requests authorization to send the above to the All India Ulema Council. Post also request clearance on language and content.